

THE LEAST, LEAST!

"When did I see you sick and imprisoned, and visited you? ... When you did it to the least of these...."

Ma. 25, 35ff

At this moment, there are thousands of Lesbians and gay men in the Cuban Refugee Camps who have been stigmatized with the label - HOMOSEXUAL.

Up to this point in time, NOT ONE social agency has come forward to ~~our~~ willingness to help them. They are in limbo behind barbed wire in Indiantown Gap, Pa., Eglington A. F. B., Fla. and Fort Chaffee, Ark. They are despised and rejected by the other refugees.

Challenged by our own beliefs, the U. F. M. C. C. is determined that if one person is oppressed, we are ALL oppressed. We are setting aside people, space, time and energy to DO something about it. Of course, we - who are you - cannot do anything without your help.

We are appealing to all Lesbians and gay men to accept the responsibilities of caring, that we might demonstrate to the world that we are not guilty of discrimination, that we are compassionate.

It is aim to negotiate with the government agencies to facilitate the release and relocation of our sisters and brothers. Further, we will arrange for them to be visited now in the camps, ministered to, and reassured that the lesbian, gay community in our country really cares.

We will be calling upon you to aid them in finding temporary housing. All this takes careful negotiating, planning, facilitating.

Your help is needed NOW. Make your checks and money orders payable to UFMCC Cuban Refugee Relief Fund, c/o UFMCC 5300 Santa Monica Blvd.-304, Los Angeles, Ca. 90029.

Sincerely and compassionately,

Rev. Troy D. Perry



UFMCC CUBAN RELIEF FUND

5300 Santa Monica Boulevard
Suite 304
Los Angeles, California 90029
(213) 464-5100

STAFF:

Rev. Bob Arthur - Director
Dale Leeche - Facilitator
John Donnelly - Co-facilitator

Pastor: Please share this letter with your congregation this coming Sunday. Cuban Brothers and Sisters need our help now! If you can receive an offering please do and accept pledges.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This last week, I shared with an M.C.C. ministers meeting in Toronto, Canada at Eastern Ministers Conference the plight of 10,000 to 12,000 Lesbian and Gay refugees being held at concentration camp style facilities at six U.S. military camps. Up to this point, not one social agency has come forward to express willingness to help them. Our Cuban sisters and brothers are in limbo, behind barbed wire. They are despised and rejected by the other refugees.

The Board of Elders has voted to put the U.F.M.C.C. at the forefront to see that this injustice stops!

Working from UFMCC headquarters in Los Angeles, a specially assigned Task Force is establishing official contact with the US Government and other resettlement agencies. This Task Force is also finding sponsors who will assist in finding jobs and homes for refugees and in gathering financial assistance to get the refugees, who lack families to sponsor them, out of the camps. Within the next three weeks, teams of Spanish-speaking Lesbians and Gay men will be sent into the six camps. The Rev. Bob Arthur, Director of UFMCC's Institutional Ministries, with Mr. Dale Leeche and Mr. John Donnelly have been deputized for six months in this effort.

As you ministers and lay delegates know, who attended our last General Conference, this is not an item we could foresee and budget out of our General fund. For that reason, I asked our Ministers meeting in Toronto to pledge to help us at this time by going back to their churches and cities and to start the task of raising money. Our brothers and sisters at Ministers conference pledged almost \$60,000 to start the UFMCC Cuban Relief Fund.

Our office received a phone call yesterday from Rev. Steve Pieters our pastor in Hartford, Conn.. Steve had pledged \$500 for his church as a goal. He called to tell us that his church has received \$1,060 to help the Fund.

I would like for us in MCC to collect \$100,000 to be used in this emergency. We need your help today. Please give today (or make a pledge to be paid in the next week) Also, any and all offers of legitimate housing (even temporary) and employment should be made known to the Task Force immediately.

The Board of Elders is appealing to all Lesbians and Gay men to accept the responsibility of caring that we might demonstrate to the world that we are not guilty of discrimination and that we are compassionate. Further, we will arrange for them to be visited now in the camps, ministered to, and reassured that the Lesbian

Page 2

and Gay community in our country really cares. We have a tremendous job ahead of us. We are asking for help from throughout the Lesbian and Gay community in the United States.

Checks may be made payable to "UFMCC Cuban Relief Fund", a special tax-deductable account, which will be administered by the UFMCC.

In Christ,

Rev. *Troy Perry*
Rev. Troy Perry

P.S. For further information, contact Dale Leeche, c/o UFMCC, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 804, Los Angeles California 90029, (213) 464-5100.



5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, California 90029 (213) 464-5100

July 2, 1980

Dear Sisters & Brothers:

Praise God! Because of the generosity of Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches members and friends, Reverend Robert Arthur, Director of our Cuban Relief Fund, left today for Indian Town Gap, PA to visit and see first-hand what is happening to our Cuban brothers and sisters in that resettlement camp. This will start the process of getting the gays and lesbians who are in camps out. Next Tuesday, Mr. Dale Leech, Facilitator of our program, will fly to Fort Chaffee, AR, for the same reason. Going into the camps with them will be Spanish-speaking members of Metropolitan Community Churches from the South Central and Mid-Atlantic Districts.

Also, on July 7th, the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, in close cooperation with the National Gay Task Force, has invited representatives of ten major gay organizations to a conference in Washington, DC to discuss the needs of the gay Cubans and to formulate a plan to work with interested refugee resettlement agencies and the United States Government. Also invited to this meeting is Ambassador Victor H. Palmieri (Ambassador-at-Large of the State Department) who is heading the refugee program for the Government.

As of today, the following Churches have pledged to help us raise the \$100,000. we need to carry out this important work:

Washington, DC	\$5,000	West Valley, CA	\$500
Nashville, TN	1,000	Louisville, KY	500
Omaha, NE	2,000	Dayton, OH	
Houston, TX	5,000	St. Petersburg, FL	500
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	5,000	Hartford, CT	500
Santa Ana, CA	2,000	Sarasota, FL	500
St. Louis, MO	1,000	Pittsburgh, PA	500
Boston, MA	2,000	Columbia-Charlotte	500
Austin, TX	1,500	Richmond-Norfolk	500
Cincinnati, OH	1,000	Illiano	500
New York, NY	10,000	Atlanta, GA	2,000
San Francisco, CA	10,000	Fayetteville, NC	500
Princeton & Atlantic City, NJ	1,000	Memphis, TN	500
& Philadelphia, PA		Springfield, MO	200
Ventura, CA	1,000	Upstate NY (Albany, Syracuse, Rochester)	500
Kansas City, MO	1,000	New Haven, CT	200
Indianapolis, IN	1,000	Denver, CO	1,000-1,500
San Jose, CA	1,000	Boise, ID	300
Sacramento, CA	1,000	Seattle, WA	1,000
Diablo Valley, CA	500	Eugene, OR	500
Salt Lake City, UT	500	Salem, OR	200
Portland, OR	1,000	Stockton, CA	200
Redwood City, CA	500	Tacoma, WA	200

The Reverend Troy D. Perry, Founder

Page 2
July 2, 1980

Of these, in the last week, Fellowship offices has received from the following Churches and community:

Chicago, IL	\$500.00	(No pledge)
Pomona, CA	54.66	(No pledge)
Omaha, NE	105.00	(\$2000 pledged)
West Valley	25.00	(\$500 pledged)
Philadelphia, PA	550.00	(\$1000 pledged)
Hartford, CT	690.00	(\$500 pledged)
Louisville, KY	380.75	(\$500 pledged)
Miscellaneous	<u>254.00</u>	
Total	\$2,559.41	

Please, if your Church hasn't pledged to help, challenge our people today and let's do our best. Pastors, please send in the funds as you receive them. Do not hold it until you have collected the entire pledged amount.

Help today to let our Cuban brothers and sisters know that we care!

In Christ,

Rev. Troy D. Perry
Reverend Troy D. Perry

TDP/fkz

Your help is needed now. Make your checks and money orders payable to UFMCC Cuban Refugee Relief Fund c/o UFMCC 5300 Santa Monica Blvd. Suite 304, Los Angeles, Ca. 90029. Sincerely and compassionately, Rev. Troy D. Perry, Moderator/Founder, Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches."

MCC has had a history of being there when our brothers and sisters needed help: We were there when the New Orleans fire claimed 34 of our brothers' and sisters' lives -- we buried the dead, notified families, and claimed those whom no one would claim as our next of kin. We did it again at the Everard Bath Fire in New York -- and funds left over from that relief fund have been pledged to assist our Cuban refugee brothers and sisters. Imagine yourself in their shoes, having been jailed in your own country for your homosexuality; freed, only to find yourself in a veritable concentration camp, where no one was willing you come forward to assist you. Don't let us turn our backs and go on complacently our own way. They need our help, and most of us in this area have decent jobs, good housing, and sufficient food. Most of us can spare some money to help these people. MCC Ventura and Santa Barbara, working together, have pledged to try to raise \$1,000 toward the \$100,000 we believe it will take to pay for transportation, housing, food, clothing, and social services our brothers and sisters need. Help us help them. Send a check directly to UFMCC or to us -- marked for the Cuban Refugee Fund -- and we will see that it is sent on to them. Hartford, Conn. has already sent in over \$1,000 -- we are far wealthier here in California than the Northeast -- let's share what we have with those who need it far more.

We are growing -- currently nearly 30 people are part of the core group at MCC Ventura. We have had 12-15 in service every Sunday, not always the same people, but that number each week. Eleven of us marched with a banner in the L.A. Gay Pride Parade -- to applause most of the way, because while we are a small group we represent a very closeted area and people were glad to see us present and accounted for. While those 11 were in L.A. another 8 people were holding services at the church, "minding the store" if you will.

We have been holding a monthly potluck -- this month's is on July 13th following service. We have been holding a weekly Bible study at the pastor's home -- with as many as 9 present for a survey of the Old Testament. (We're up to Saul, David, and Jonathan -- with some interesting things to say about what the Bible says about them.) (And some interesting things to say about how Bible translators -- particularly Fundamentalist ones -- suddenly changed an embrace between two men to a "warm handshake" (The Living Bible) probably because of homophobia! (If you don't believe us, compare the King James' Version with the Living Bible; see for yourself.) (*1 Samuel 20:41*)

We have also begun a weekly Alcoholics' Together group which meets Tuesday evening at 401 West Vineyard Avenue, Apt. 335. If you or any other gay has a drinking problem, this group may meet a need. Alcoholism is one of the ways many of us have avoided dealing with social and emotional rejection. Don't become a statistic; be a healthy homosexual, kick your unhealthy habits.

Our rap group on Sunday is about to start. Attached you will find a flyer describing the topics and the dates for each topic. Come and talk about what it means to be a gay person -- the rules, roles, and relationships within the Gay community. The group begins on July 20th and will run for the next 8 Sundays.

"We are a resurrection people and Hallelujah is our song!" is more than just a slogan. For us it is a reality. Don't let our size frighten you away -- "Little is much, when God is in it." Come and be loved back to life.

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5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, California 90029 (213) 464-5100

July 15, 1980

Dear Sisters & Brothers:

God works in mysterious ways. It has been over a month ago when a reporter called me and asked what the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches was going to do about the gay and lesbian Cuban refugee program.

This last week a news article appeared in the Washington Post, telling about the relief effort being mounted by the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches and ten other national gay organizations. That night the national television news carried our story of the gay and lesbian refugees into the homes of millions of Americans, and our phones here in Los Angeles have not stopped ringing since.

Reverend Robert Arthur and Mr. Dale Leeche have just returned from visiting the Refugee Camps in Indian Town Gap, PA; Egland Air Force Base, FL; and Fort Chaffee, AR. They report that several thousand Cuban sisters and brothers are awaiting processing to sponsors in the Gay Community.

Pastors!!! We need your help today. The Washington, D. C. Field Office, Department of Christian Social Action has just mailed to each of you a report of what we need in the way of refugee sponsors. Please read that document carefully. We have listed in that form, "Questions for Potential Sponsors." You can help our headquarters staff by screening potential sponsors when they call your local Church. Enclosed with this letter is a sponsor form (#UFMCC 80CRF). Please make copies of these for your use. After you have screened the potential sponsor, using the questions, please fill out the form and mail them to the Cuban Relief Fund here in Los Angeles and our staff will take it from there.

Again, the Board of Elders wishes to thank the following Churches who have pledged and sent contributions to help in this time of need:

<u>California</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Received as of 7/14</u>
Diablo Valley (Concord)	\$500.	
Redwood City	500.	
Sacramento	1,000.	
San Francisco	10,000.	
San Jose	1,000.	
Santa Ana	2,000.	
Stockton	200.	
Ventura	1,000.	
West Valley (Canoga Park)	500.	\$25.00
<u>Colorado</u>		
Denver	1,000-1,500	362.45

The Reverend Troy D. Perry, Founder

July 15, 1980

Page 2

<u>Connecticut</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Received as of 7/14</u>
Hartford	\$ 500.	\$1,040.00
New Haven	200.	
<u>District of Columbia</u>	5,000.	
<u>Florida</u>		
Sarasota	500.	
South Florida Churches	5,000.	503.08
St. Petersburg	500.	
<u>Georgia</u>		
Atlanta	2,000	
<u>Idaho</u>		
Boise	300.	
<u>Illinois</u>		
Illiano (Quincy)	500.	
<u>Indiana</u>		
Indianapolis	1,000.	
<u>Kentucky</u>		
Louisville	500.	470.75
<u>Massachusetts</u>		
Boston	2,000.	1,028.00
<u>Missouri</u>		
Kansas City	1,000	
St. Louis	1,000	
Springfield	200.	
<u>Nebraska</u>		
Omaha	2,000.	221.35
<u>New Jersey & Pennsylvania</u>		
Princeton, Atlantic City & Philadelphia	1,000.	1,050.00
Pittsburgh	500.	
<u>New York</u>		
New York City Churches	10,000.	100.00
Upstate (Albany, Syracuse & Rochester)	500.	
<u>North Carolina</u>		
Fayetteville	500.	100.00
<u>Ohio</u>		
Cincinnati	1,000.	
<u>Oregon</u>		
Eugene	500.	
Portland	1,000.	
Salem	200.	

CUBAN REFUGEE SPONSOR

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____

EMPLOYMENT: _____

OK to call at work? YES _____ NO _____

SOCIAL SECURITY #: _____

PASTOR: After screening, do you recommend as sponsor? YES _____ NO _____

Restrictions: _____

Comments: _____

Couple OK? YES _____ NO _____

Black OK? YES _____ NO _____

Effeminate OK? YES _____ NO _____

July 15, 1980

Page 3

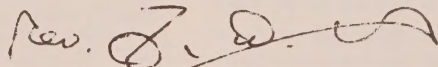
<u>South Carolina</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Received as of 7/14</u>
Columbia-Charlotte	\$ 500.	\$ 53.79
<u>Tennessee</u>		
Memphis	500.	
Nashville	1,000.	300.00
<u>Texas</u>		
Austin	1,500.	
Houston	5,000.	
<u>Utah</u>		
Salt Lake City	500.	
<u>Virginia</u>		
Richmond-Norfolk	500.	
<u>Washington</u>		
Seattle	1,000.	
Tacoma	200.	

Also, the following monies have been received from Churches and communities who did not pledge: Santa Barbara, CA, \$30.; Bridgeport, CT, \$10.; Minneapolis, MN, \$100.; Phoenix, AZ, \$10.; San Diego, CA, \$50.; Milwaukee, WI, \$312.11; Tampa, FL, \$310.83; San Bernardino, CA, \$25.; Waterloo, IA, \$256.25; Chicago, IL, \$500.; Pomona, CA, \$54.66; Columbus, OH, \$15.; Miscellaneous, \$426.33.

The total funds received so far are \$7,826.60. Again, Praise God and thank you. Pastors, please send in any funds as you receive them. Do not hold it until you have collected the entire pledged amount. Challenge our people today and let's do our best.

People will know we are Christians by our love.

In Christ,



Reverend Troy D. Perry

TDP/fkz

Gay Cubans Survive Torture and Imprisonment

REFUGEES TELL HORROR STORIES OF BEATINGS AND FORCED LABOR CAMPS

by Larry Bush

Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, is an old Pennsylvania National Guard headquarters. Today its two story white frame barracks, set in the rolling green countryside of southeastern Pennsylvania houses nearly 20,000 Cuban refugees.

It is like a small, quiet town these days, clear ground serving as baseball fields and strollers filling the dirt roads that grid the barracks area. In all there are six separate camp areas, with amiable guards positioned at each entrance and copses of woods serving as barriers for refugees who would seek to visit between the camps.

The separation is not absolute, but is nevertheless strictly maintained. One camp area houses unaccompanied women, and another unaccompanied men, and still others family groups. In early days, U.S. army officers at the camp said that some of the women's barracks were turning into brothels when unaccompanied men were allowed unrestricted access.

The sameness of the white barracks in each quarter gives testimony that this is a way station for most of the Cubans, who will be resettled in the United States. The homey touches are the people themselves, scattered around with the ease and boredom of residents of small towns everywhere.

For gays, small towns generally mean carefully crafted anonymity, a

determined effort to melt into the community without attracting notice.

At Indiantown Gap, Cuban gays have found that impossible. Visitors who ask to meet Cuban homosexuals are immediately directed to two barracks, housing a total of more than 100 men, who live surrounded by straight Cuban men who stand by smirking and sometimes physically harassing their fellow refugees who are gay.

A Low Budget Carmen Miranda Production

The Cuban gays had been alerted that a San Francisco gay newspaper wanted to talk with them by a friendly U.S. army guard, and they were clearly planning to enjoy it. A large banner stretched across one barracks, "WELCOME SAN FRANCISCO VISITORS," with flowers drawn around the words. A sign, "Freedom House," was over the door.

When the military van used to escort press visitors pulled up, the Cubans came tumbling out of their barracks, shouting greetings, holding each other with public affection, grinning broadly and camping outrageously. With the cast-off clothes the Red Cross furnishes, they had mixed and matched women's blouses, stacked heel clogs, levis and occasionally a necklace. Some wore lavender armbands. It looked like nothing so much as a low budget Carmen Miranda production before the final costumes had arrived, a

chorus line jubilantly taking a break between the tedium of rehearsals.

Each barracks has a "counselor," who serves as liaison with the informal camp government the Cubans have established for working with U.S. officials. At this barracks, the counselor was resplendent in a striped black and white blouse, short yellow pants, stacked heeled shoes and a rhythmic dance-walk.

It took some time to sort through the crowd, who pressed names and addresses of friends back in Cuba forward, hoping they could be contacted. When things quieted, a small circle sat on the grass and talked about life in Cuba. The party spirit was gone, the happy laughter changed to monotone recitals, and the blouses were lifted to show deep gashes from bayonets, scars inflicted by Cuban jailers they had left behind only weeks ago.

Tales of Terror

For most of the 100 plus open gay men at Fort Indiantown Gap, escape from Cuba had meant escape from prison, forced labor camps, and even from death.

"When I left Cuba, there were 560 gay people still in the prison where I was," one man said. "And there were different prisons, each of us here was in a different prison."

"I got this in prison," a sixteen

(continued on page 13)

CUBAN GAYS

(continued from front page)

year old youth, released from jail and put on a boat to America said, pointing to a bayonet scar that ran over his eyebrow. "They used to beat me up, and in order to avoid getting beat up worse, I would slash my own wrists and arms," he said. The scars turned his forearms into a washboard ruffle of slashes. "Look at me, with only 16 years of age. They beat you up for being a homosexual."

Again and again, the story poured out, each a variation on the central theme of arrests, beatings, imprisonment, and disgrace. They are subject, they said, to Cuba's "peligrisodad" laws—anti-social elements—and are arrested for merely being gay. The fact that most of the men there were effeminate was no coincidence; it was the single measure most Cuban officials used to "determine" homosexuality.

"I began work as an elementary school teacher, my name is Rafael," one said. "My experience as a teacher was very good, but the police came to the house and they said that I was effeminate. That was considered a public scandal. I was given a fine, and later I was jailed for three years. They fired me first, and put me to work on a construction crew, but later I was just jailed."

"I was living in Havana and going to the University," Jorge said. "I was studying for an English degree, but they expelled me for being gay. Just in a night, when they had a purifying meeting, 40 gays were called. We had to go there. They humiliated me. They attacked my morals, and tried to put me down. Not just politically but also my feelings, emotionally, my behavior. They knew I was gay, I was effeminate, they just knew, it was obvious."

"My life in Havana was really quiet, because young people have no life," Jorge says. "Just a lover, and go to the theater. Sometimes there was a party, and we would have six people there and listen to music." Those infrequent gatherings, says Jorge, were the high season of Havana gay life and he speaks of six open gays together as if it were hundreds.

"After I was expelled, I had to run away from the university. With no hope, I had to go to my parents, bearing in mind that there was no opportunity for me because I was not going to get a job. I couldn't have a career or anything like that," says Jorge.

Jorge left his lover behind to come to America, because he was able to get an exit visa, and American relatives arranged a boat. Like most of the Cuban gay refugees, he is worried about what will happen to those they left.

Hopes for a Better Life

The prison and gay rumor system maintained that gay life in America was not as bad as Cuban officials

have in Cuba. The opportunity to say what we think, openly. Not only to say that, but to fight for it.

"We are looking for a new life, as gay people," Jorge says, speaking for the group, now about a dozen, who have crowded around to nod agreement and shout encouragement.

For the gay refugees, life at Indian-town Gap is better than any they have known. They have each other, openly, even if it means trouble from their fellow refugees. Having tasted that freedom, they will not back off from "flaunting" themselves, despite increasing threats and fears for them from American officials.

The visit by a gay reporter, writing for a San Francisco gay newspaper, electrifies them, and they insist that during a future visit they will put on a "travesty"—a Cuban drag show—in the honor of gay visitors. The American officials pale at the thought, and the Cuban straight refugees began throwing taunts. Finally, the U.S. army escort orders us out of the area—"There's going to be a riot here if you don't leave," the guard says. "The

"We would get prodded with electric cattle prods, they would throw bottles of water at us for no reason, so the glass would shatter and fly over us. And then there are all the marks we have on our bodies that we gave ourselves. They would take electric wires, and make braids with them, and then hit us with them."

others don't like you paying so much attention to the gays."

Before we leave, the Cuban gays make their pleas for help, calling for the gay community.

"We need help. We want to work, we want to study, we want to be useful people," they say in a chorus. "We ask you in the name of God to help us. We will live up to whatever is asked of us."

"Tell them to find it in their hearts and in the name of God to help us," Andres says. "We also need help during our stay here, things we can use ourselves, we especially need books that will help us learn English. We will be better off as gay people in the United States than we were in Cuba."

"Few of us have relatives here," Roberto says. "You are our family. You take with you our warmth and love. We think of all of you as brothers. We are without protection and without anyone to take care of us. They told us that the homosexuals in the United States could make themselves respectable, and we want to work and maybe bring our friends and lovers out of Cuba if we can still reach them. We need your help."

...

"I was living in Havana and going to the University. I was studying for an English degree, but they expelled me for being gay. Just in a night, when they had a purifying meeting, 40 gays were called. We had to go there. They humiliated me. They attacked my morals, and tried to put me down. Not just politically but also my feelings, emotionally, my behavior. They knew I was gay, I was effeminate, they just knew, it was obvious."

said, and most of that information came from visiting Cuban American gays who were in Havana last summer.

"I heard they have a great movement here, fighting for gay rights here," Jorge says. "I hope I will enjoy a state of freedom that we don't

The future of the gay Cuban refugees remains in some doubt, and while White House officials firmly state that no Cuban gay will be deported to Cuba because of homosexuality, Immigration officials are taking sexual histories of the gay Cubans for their

permanent record. No one knows the number involved, but gays at Indian-town Gap say there are considerably more who are closeted, while knowledgeable sources at Ft. Chaffee, Arkansas, say as many as 2,500 may be there.

To date, a number of gay organizations are seeking to make an outreach to the gay refugees. MCC has pledged a major effort through its local congregations, and is coordinating that through its Los Angeles headquarters.

"I don't want to think about what's going to happen to them. In Cuba they are talking of setting up a huge work camp for homosexuals, they're going to round up all the homosexuals and take them there. They will keep them for ten, fifteen years. Those people are going to be lost. They would kill us all."

The National Gay Task Force is working with State Department and White House officials to assure that Cuban gays will face no "status" problems, but firm guarantees are difficult until Congress and the Administration acts on the overall Cuban refugee question.

The Cuban gays resettlement into American life already has raised a number of issues for gay and non-gay organizations. Few have American

they put me out of the university," William says. "I was socially dangerous. I was paraded through the streets of my town, people yelled out that I had sold out my country for a pair of blue jeans."

"They say that we are anti-social elements, that we are out of place in society," William says. "Not just me, many other people like myself were put in jail. There were many, many of us at the university, in medicine, architecture, engineering, accounting, litera-

ture." William was among those taken from prison and put on the boatlift to Key West.

Andres, the barracks counselor, was 16 when he was first arrested. He was in a compulsory military work unit, and had become lovers with another youth. They were arrested and put in separate prisons.

Andres served three years in jail then, and was released to become a mechanic on the railroads. A career he planned in nursing was ruined, and he was forced to take ever worse positions by the central Cuban employment office. His last job was as a store janitor, which he got only through his mother's intervention with the store manager. Finally, three months ago, he was arrested while talking to another gay man on the street, and put in jail.

"It was awful," Andres says. "They mistreated us tremendously. In cells for six, they had 16 or 17 of us, and they didn't take us out to the sun or anything. I had friends who died in prison. They hung themselves because it was just too much, and none of us really expected to get out of prison again. Just the despair of being locked up, and then the beatings and mistreatment."

"We would get prodded with electric cattle prods, they would throw bottles of water at us for no reason, so the glass would shatter and fly over us."

"We need help. We want to work, we want to study, we want to be useful people. We ask you in the name of God to help us. We will live up to whatever is asked of us."

A substantial number of the Cubans are black, and they asked that a special effort by black organizations be made to help them.

The arrival of these refugees also appears likely to focus attention on a lingering human rights question for many groups. Amnesty International, which earlier rejected accepting gays as "prisoners of conscience" unless they were imprisoned for gay rights activities, now says it will travel to the camps to interview the refugees. It is, an official said, the first instance that can be documented of people being jailed for sexual orientation alone.

Labor Camps for Gays

"I don't want to think about what's going to happen to them," a leader says. "In Cuba they are talking of setting up a huge work camp for homosexuals, they're going to round up all the homosexuals and take them there. They will keep them for ten, fifteen years. Those people are going to be lost. They would kill us all," Jorge says.

William was an economics student at the university until three years ago, when he too was expelled as gay.

"When they found out I was gay and was going to leave the country,

And then there are all the marks we have on our bodies that we gave ourselves. They would take electric wires, and make braids with them, and then hit us with them," Andres says.

"Some in prison didn't get to leave, because they were underage," Andres said. "They were minors to leave the country, but to be jailed they weren't minors." Andres said those left behind in jail were under 16.

Getting Out

Nearly all the men left Cuba at the direction of the Cuban government, an effort to discredit the flow of refugees by dumping homosexuals onto the boats, pointedly telling them that Americans barred homosexuals from entering the country. In some cases, the police came to their houses and told them to leave. For most, however, they were taken straight from the jails and put on boats. They are a portion of the "criminals" that American officials are becoming increasingly nervous over.

"They just called us together," Andres says of his last weeks in a Cuban prison. "After we said we wanted to leave, they isolated us in a separate cell, and they wouldn't give us

(continued on page 15)

Cuban Gays

(continued from page 13)

any food, and they beat us some more because they said we were traitors.

"On top of being homosexuals, we were traitors, they told us," Andres says. "And we then had to wait about 15 days before we were put on the boats—15 days of abuse and mistreatment.

"On the last night they put us up against the walls," Andres says, spread-eagling his arms and legs on the barracks wall to demonstrate. "They kept us like that for three hours at a time on the average. They would take the electric cattle prods and hit us with them if we moved or talked with one another, or looked behind us."

Cuban guards also taunted the men that life in the United States would not be any better, that there was no hope for a homosexual anywhere.

"They would tell us that in the United States the homosexuals are not well regarded," Jorge says. "That they were treated as criminals or discriminated against. That they lived apart from the rest of society. That homosexuals in the United States did not

have any kind of life. That there were many homosexuals in jail. And that black homosexuals had the dogs thrown at them and that they were discriminated against like animals."

When they were put on the boats, Andres says, they were bused with machine-gun toting guards, and doberman pinchers, "like we were murderers." None of the jailed men were given an opportunity to notify their families that they were being taken out of Cuba.

"Our parents were with us," Roberto, another jailed man says. "Our families were being put through hell, martyred. The communists would say that any parents who still held out love for a child like us . . . they cannot conceive that a mother or father could still love us being the way we are."

"My parents only imagine that I am here," Andres says. "They don't know if I was lost at sea or shot or what."

Until the very time of being put on the boats with American captains, the Cuban gays say they themselves were not sure that they were not being taken to be killed, but that anything was better than remaining in prison.

"Some of us thought they were just going to put us in a boat and sink us in the sea and drown us all," Andres says. "It would still have been better."



UFMCC CUBAN RELIEF FUND

5300 Santa Monica Boulevard
Suite 304
Los Angeles, California 90029
(213) 464-5100

STAFF:

Rev. Bob Arthur - Director
Dale Leeche - Facilitator
John Donnelly - Co-facilitator

August 26, 1980

An Open Letter to All Sponsors in the Cuban Refugee Program:

Dear Sponsor:

As a sponsor you have agreed to provide a home and basic support for a Cuban Refugee until he or she becomes a self-supporting member of our society. We estimate this support period to last from three to six months. You will be the refugee's first home in America and will be instrumental in helping the Cuban adjust to a new culture and a new way of life.

NOW THAT YOU'RE A SPONSOR

1. It takes approximately 10 days from the time your application to sponsor is processed to the day of arrival of your refugee. We have experienced a frustrating delay in this system during the first part of August due to understaffing and vacations by Church World Services personnel. Because of these delays, some sponsors have had to be re-matched with a new refugee, beginning the process all over. If this has occurred, you will receive a call from a UFMCC representative informing you of the change. We have every reason to believe these delays are behind us.

2. The arrival of your refugee.

You should receive two calls from placement agencies: one call to confirm your willingness to sponsor the refugee assigned to you. This call will come from a UFMCC representative who will give you the name and alien number of the refugee with whom you have been matched. Approximately 10 days later you will receive a second call. This call will come from a resettlement agency worker at the camp your refugee has been housed in since arrival from Cuba and should come 48 to 27 hours before the scheduled arrival of your refugee. While there have been exceptions, most notifications have followed this procedure.

Some sponsors have been asked whether they are willing to pay for the flight from the camp to their nearest airport. There is no requirement for the sponsor to pay for the flight; the placement agency is merely seeking to spread their limited funds as far as possible.

3. At the airport.

Flights will arrive at your closest airport. Because flights originating from camp areas do not fly into smaller airports, special arrangements and transfers or stopovers would be required. Because the refugee is travelling in an alien culture it seems far easier to accept direct flights to the major airport of your area. If you do desire another airport, this request must be made to a UFMCC representative when you receive your confirmation call.

Rev. Troy D. Perry, Founder

The refugee is supposed to be given your name and address, but this is not always done. We recommend that you make a sign with the refugee's name and your name. The sign should be large enough to catch the refugee's eye; anything from 8x10 up would suffice.

4. Culture shock.

There are a great many differences between Latin and American cultures; communist and capitalistic societies; the rigidly oppressed and the relatively free. We have all three sets of differences in addition to the difference in emotional balance between a self-sustaining person and one whose life (for even 6 months) has been spent in a refugee camp or prison.

The Cubans have lived under communist rule since 1959. As gay persons they have been oppressed with a fervor unknown to any of us: 3 or more gays gathered in one place were subject to arrest and heavy fines, if not imprisonment; the degree of homophobia and brutalization of these men and women was not only high in Cuba, it continued in the refugee camps and continues in many segments of Cuban-American society. Sexual abuse, beatings and coercion are a part of the lives of most refugees we will receive. Some have accepted a non-gay's demand to be a "wife" or "lover" as a ploy to get the non-gay out of camp. Some have lovers in our understanding of the word from whom they have been separated since fear of reprisal often prevented any admissions of such relationship existing. In the case of the first situation there is little we can do but make adjustments when such a situation is discovered. In the latter case, we will endeavor to place both individuals in the same area, but cannot make further arrangements (relocate with a new sponsor taking both, etc.). As soon as they begin working and can afford an apartment, they can live together. Not before. To do otherwise might deprive them of a potentially powerful motivation to become self-sufficient.

The refugee's life has been thrown into upheaval. They left family and friends in Cuba: their only remaining contacts often remain in camps or have been placed in other parts of America. And here they are in a strange, alien part of the world with someone they don't know and most often can't talk to or understand. Two things happen in part as a reaction to this situation: the refugee is immobilized (takes no initiative, is lethargic, lazy, sleeps a lot and doesn't eat) and quite often uses (and abuses) the telephone, calling the only people he or she knows -- and that might be Havana! Some of the lethargy is cultural. We Americans race frantically with the full weight of the Protestant Work Ethic hanging over our heads; Latins live and move at a more casual and sometimes seemingly careless pace. Cultural assimilation will (may?) modify this somewhat. But some of the lethargic immobilization is reaction to the living hell so recently experienced. This aspect will leave only with time and tender loving care.

Telephone use and abuse is even more frustrating since it hits our pocketbook. A bit of solid, firm consciousness raising is in order here. The Cuban does not relate to either the size of our country or the cost of Mother Bell. Both can be taught. If these fail, I recommend either a phone lock or the removal of the cord.

Dietary habits and manners differ greatly as well. Their diet in Cuba consisted primarily of rice and beans, with an average of 4 ounces of meat (chicken and fish) per week. Emily Post was not around to teach what Americans consider "good manners" and personal hygiene is not always what Americans have been taught to expect. As the refugee's first contact, you can help adjust those behavioral patterns with firm, patient teaching and modeling. One thing I have heard consistently from all I have talked with is that Cubans have demonstrated an exceptional ability to learn quickly.

The expectations of many refugees are, at best, bizarre. They were taught many erroneous "facts" about life in America and rumors, false hopes, etc., in camps have led many to believe that we "rich Americanos" will provide them a car, house, new wardrobe, etc. This confusion you can help alleviate with a good honest talk with your refugee as to your own financial situation.

In our modest screening of potential sponsors, we have endeavored to emphasize two points: (1) the refugee is not placed in a home to be a servant, and (2) the refugee is to be given a room of her/his own. The first point is to make sure we move the Cuban into economic self-sufficiency. We want them to assimilate into American society as quickly as possible. We want them to become independent. We certainly expect that the refugee become a part of your household and assist in a fair share of household duties. But we also expect that time to learn English and gain employment be the top priority. The second is to protect both the sponsor and refugee. Any member of the helping professions has learned that a sexual relationship with a client diminishes (if not destroys) the counselor's ability to provide aid, assistance and guidance. The rule is that if a personal relationship develops, a change of professional guidance is required. I believe a corollary exists with a sponsor/refugee relationship. As a sponsor, you are a teacher--counselor; your role as a sponsor will collapse in a frustration of conflicting roles. It is proverbial that a counsebr falls in love with his or her counselor; so don't confuse this "love" for love that grows between equals. These gay Cubans have been used sexually by anyone more powerful than they. They might even expect that this is a price they must pay for being "faggots." We can give them a new life and a self-esteem not previously experienced. We cannot accomplish this goal if we perpetuate any abuse. Be careful without being rigid or puritanical and both of you will be better off.

THE FIRST WEEK

1. Sponsor/refugee meetings.

We are encouraging all of our local MCC's to develop an opportunity for sponsors and refugees in their area to meet and exchange information and challenges with each other. Any known available resources in your community can be centered at those meetings, including donated clothing, people able to provide language training, and those who can facilitate job opportunities/training, and social service referrals.

2. Immigration Card (I-94)

Each Cuban has been issued a card by Immigration. Check your refugee's card, looking at the right-hand corner to make sure the card has been stamped ENTRANT, and has a stamp that gives the alien the right to work. Refugees who entered the USA prior to June 30 were stamped deferred inspection and must be taken to the

Immigration Office nearest you before anything else can be done.

All refugees should go to the Immigration office within the first week to ten days to begin the process of registering as an alien, unless other instructions appear in the material the refugee brings with him/her. Two years following registration, the refugee will receive a green card (permanent residency). Once the green card is issued, the refugee will be entitled to apply for citizenship in three years.

3. Food Stamps (DPSS)

Take the refugee to the Department of Public Social Services nearest your home to apply for food stamps. It is important that you not give your refugee any money until this application is made and that you make no promises of support you don't wish to keep. Any monies received by or promised to the refugee can (and will, most likely) be considered "income" and will reduce the amount of public assistance available to the Cuban. The Cuban refugee is entitled to the food stamps, but you may find it necessary to be firmly persistent (read: pushy) when dealing with DPSS personnel.

This can be a long process, consuming most if not all of a day. It has been recommended that you drop your refugee off, or ideally, teach them the public transportation system, and send them off on their own. While this is sound advice, you may want to endure this process with your refugee to guarantee that he or she receives what they deserve.

4. Medical Care

The federal government has assured us that the refugees are eligible for medical care under the federal medicaid program. You will need to check on the details of that program in your local community.

5. Social Security

A shorter and easier trip than the above (one easily combined with the food stamp application) can be for the social security card. Your refugee's Immigration Card (I-94) stamped "OK for employment" allows the refugee to apply for a social security card. Upon application the refugee will receive a temporary "card;" the permanent card will be mailed.

7. Selective Service Registration (US Post Office)

All refugees born in 1960 or 1961 must go to your local post office to register for the draft (selective service). Federal law requires citizens and resident aliens alike to register. If your refugee objects to military service on religious or moral grounds, have them write "Conscientious Objector" on the registration form. No space has been provided for this notation, but draft counselors have advised the potential CO to so indicate on either the top or bottom of the card. If your refugee is born after 1960, they must register on their 18th birthday.

8. VD Testing (Local VD clinics)

Medical testing at the refugee camps initially included testing for sexually transmitted diseases, but since these kind of diseases can arise quickly and unexpectedly, you should arrange to take your Cuban to the local clinic for testing within the first week of his/her arrival.

STARTING A NEW LIFE

1. Clothing

Your refugee left Cuba with the clothes on his/her back. Some have received an additional set of clothing at the camp. Check with your local MCC to see if they have a deacon's closet or clothing drive with clothing available to give to your Cuban upon arrival.

2. Housing

You should start looking soon for inexpensive housing. Resettlement personnel have stressed the importance of getting the refugee on his or her own as quickly as possible. We may find that the refugees will form friendships and choose to share a living space, but experience cautions that relationships of this type be of the refugee's choosing. Any landlord willing to aid in this aspect of the resettlement program should be referred to your local MCC.

3. Changing sponsors

Once a match between sponsor and refugee is made, we discourage any change unless absolutely necessary. We do not have a surplus of sponsors to draw from at this time. Any surplus we may get will be used to place those refugees stranded in the area. Refugee placements are temporary. We hope to enable the Cuban to become independent within three months. If a change does occur, this information should be given to the UFMCC office in Los Angeles as soon as possible to enable them to keep their records in current.

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

Be patient . . .

Be strong . . .

These words of advice come from a woman who has worked with refugees for several years. When language fails - point, grunt, model. You're surprised how well we can communicate if we really need and want to communicate.

Be patient . . .

Be strong . . .

You have agreed to provide housing and basic life support. You have not suddenly become parent, baby-sitter, surrogate lover, or crutch. Encourage the refugee to be on his or her own. Teach them the transportation system and perhaps get them a monthly pass if such exists in your community. You are not asked to be chauffeur or protector and will actually do harm if you keep the Cuban from self-reliance.

Be patient . . .

Be strong . . .

The prime duty of the sponsor is to move the Cuban into a new, independent life as quickly as possible.

LETTER TO SPONSORS, 8/26/80, page 6.

This letter was stolen from a similar letter published by MCC in the Valley based upon their first three weeks experience with the support and follow-up meetings with the refugees and their sponsors. We sincerely appreciate their work, and recommend their experiences to any MCC willing to provide such a similar resource. You may reach them from 11-6 PM Monday through Friday, PDT for further information. Of course, we at the Fellowship offices stand ready to be of whatever service we can be to any of you in your new adventure in helping these who look to us for getting them into the American society.

Sincerely,

Rev. Bob Arthur
Rev. Bob Arthur
Director

August 1980

Legal Information for Gay Cuban Refugees

This will give you some basic information on your status under the United States immigration laws and on your rights as a gay person living in the United States. It is only intended as a basic guide and is not a substitute for individual legal advice. If you have any serious legal problems or difficulty with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, speak to an attorney.

Your Status Under United States Immigration and Naturalization Laws

United States immigration law provides that homosexual aliens will not be admitted to the United States. There have been several court cases challenging this law and, during the past year, many gays from all countries have been admitted to the United States under a special procedure called "parole." All of the refugees recently arrived from Cuba (gay and non-gay) have been admitted to the United States under a temporary parole status and even if you are identified as gay by the Immigration Service, you will be allowed to remain in the United States. However, unlike other Cuban refugees, if you have been identified as gay, you will not be eligible for permanent residence or citizenship, unless the United States immigration laws are changed, and in the meantime, you will retain this parolee status. If the laws are changed, you will then be allowed to apply for permanent residence. The Immigration Service will give you an identification card to enable you to obtain employment. This card will not indicate that you are gay.

As a parolee, you are required to report to the Immigration Service at specific times and they will tell you exactly when and where to report. It is essential that you report to the Immigration Service when requested to do so, since failure to report may result in your deportation. If you move, notify the Immigration Service of your new address. If you plan to move to another state, contact your parole officer to discuss these plans before you actually move.

You may be called in for an interview by an immigration officer at any time for any reason. Remember that you have the right to refuse to answer any questions which an immigration officer asks you during your regular parole interview or during any other interview or hearing. If an immigration officer asks you questions concerning your homosexuality, your personal lifestyle, the bars or other places you go to or your sexual activities, refuse to answer any more questions (even if the rest of the questions do not refer to homosexuality) until you have spoken to an attorney. If you are unsure about the purpose or intent of any question, respond that you would like to consult an attorney before answering any further questions. If the officer persists or threatens you, do not worry, simply refuse to continue to answer questions until you have spoken to an attorney. Even if you have previously admitted your homosexuality to the Immigration Service, take the same approach and refuse to answer any questions about this subject until you have spoken to an attorney. Do not sign any consent forms, waivers or any other legal papers during questioning until after you have spoken to an attorney.

Also remember that you have the right to refuse to allow an immigration or police officer or any other government official to search your home unless he has a proper search warrant. If the officer attempts to force his way in, do not resist physically. Try to obtain a witness and say in front of the witness and the officer that he is entering against your will.

If you are arrested for any reason, it will be considered a violation of your parole and the Immigration Service may call you in for a special interview or hearing. In such instance, the government does not have to provide you with an attorney or with an interpreter for the interview or hearing. Do not go to a special interview or hearing without consulting an attorney. If you do not know an attorney or cannot afford one, there are several ways to obtain an attorney who can help you. To locate an attorney, speak to your sponsor, contact Lambda Legal Defense, call your local legal services office, your local gay switchboard, MCC, Dignity or call gay organizations in your area.

If you receive a notice that a deportation hearing has been scheduled, this does not mean that you will be immediately deported. There are several legal ways to delay or stop deportation proceedings and therefore it is not likely that you will ever be deported. In addition, the United States has a policy of not deporting anyone to a "communist" country, so it is unclear whether the government would ever even consider deporting you to Cuba. The most important thing to do if you receive notice of a deportation hearing is to immediately speak to an attorney.

Always carry identification with your name and address and indicating your status as an alien. In the United States there are many foreigners who have stayed beyond their visa and are considered illegal aliens since they are without the necessary legal permission to remain in this country. If you are stopped and questioned by an immigration or police officer, show your identification which will verify that you are not one of the many illegal aliens for whom they are probably searching. Do not resist or run away from immigration or police officers asking to see your identification papers.

Now we will discuss some of the laws which lead to arrest and other problems for gay people. Remember that the laws may vary from state to state, therefore, familiarize yourself with the laws where you live. You are in this country as a parolee and it is very important that you do not get arrested.

If you are arrested, you have the following important rights: You have a right to remain silent and to refuse to answer any questions. While the fact that you remain silent cannot be used against you in court, anything you do say can and probably will be used against you. Therefore it is best not to say anything. You have a right to have an attorney present during questioning, and if you cannot afford to pay an attorney, you can demand that one be provided at no cost to you. If you say you wish to remain silent, questioning must stop. If you are arrested, the police may try to question you and use pressure to cause you to confess or plead guilty to some crime. Do not confess or plead guilty to anything, even if you believe you have committed the offense for which you have been arrested. Regardless of what the police say or do, if you insist on your right to an attorney and refuse to answer any questions, nothing serious will happen to you. Our rights in this area are extremely important to us and the courts will protect these rights and your entitlement to them.

Acts Which Can Lead to an Arrest

Consensual sodomy (oral or anal sex between consenting adults) is illegal in most states. Consensual sodomy is legal in the states of Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming. Even where consensual sodomy is legal, solicitation (asking someone to perform a legal or illegal sex act) is a crime.

In almost every state it is illegal for a person under the age of consent to have sex with anyone else. A person over the age of consent who has sex with a person under the age of consent (the age of consent is 17 or 18 and varies from state to state) has generally committed a serious crime, although arrests for this crime are not frequent.

Most arrests for the crimes of sodomy, solicitation and sex with a minor (a person under the age of consent) occur in public or semi-public places such as parks, public toilets, truck stops, docks, railroad or bus stations. These arrests are sometimes made by police dressed to pass as gay or lesbian. They invite the approach and then make the arrest. If you have the slightest suspicion or feeling that someone is a police officer, avoid contact with this person. Many U.S. gays take these risks, but for you, the risks are more substantial since an arrest may lead to a deportation hearing.

Other Activities Which Carry a High Risk of Arrest

Drugs- The possession, use or sale of marijuana is still illegal in most states. Amphetamines (ups), barbituates (downs), quaaludes, cocaine and heroin are also illegal and, in many states, their possession is a serious crime. Here too, police in street clothes try to set up sales and buys to make arrests.

Prostitution is illegal for both men and women in almost all states. In addition to arrests by police dressed in street clothing, in many large cities, the police make periodic mass arrests of prostitutes. Although most prostitutes are released on bail or given a minimal fine, again, the potential consequences for you are more serious.

Driving without a license, street fighting, dressing in drag and cross-dressing are acts which, in some places, can lead to arrest. Speak to your sponsor about local laws in these areas.

We have included this information in order to prevent as many arrests as possible. If you are arrested, however, do not panic. An attorney will be able to help you and there are many legal ways to challenge an arrest and prevent a conviction.

Other Consequences of Being Gay in the United States

Being gay itself is not illegal, but if someone thinks or knows that you are gay, they can generally discriminate against you without violating the law. The proof needed to show that you are gay is limited, and guilt by association is often sufficient. Because of this fact, consider the effect of your activities on your own and on your sponsor's situation. Discuss your community's laws and prejudices with your sponsor. Discover if it is important to your own sponsor that no one find out that he or she is gay.

For the Lesbian Mother

Local welfare authorities have the right to examine your moral character to determine your fitness as a parent. Certain individual officials believe that lesbians are not morally fit to be mothers and they may begin legal proceedings to take your children away from you. If, at any point, the question of your being a lesbian or of your sexual activities arises with any social welfare

agency, immediately contact an attorney. If a legal proceeding is begun against you, the case can be fought and there is a chance of winning, but you will need the assistance of an attorney. Of course, many women who are lesbians keep their children without ever having to go to court over this issue.

Job Applications

If an employer or potential employer asks you if you are gay, and you say "yes", it usually is legal to fire you or to refuse you employment. If you refuse to answer the question, the employer may believe you are gay or uncooperative and fire you or refuse to hire you for that reason. In a few states, the law protects your right to be employed as an openly gay person. Most U.S. gays can offer advice on this difficult question and you should talk to your sponsor about this.

As complicated as this advice seems, we have learned how to live with the system. We hope that while you are here, many of these laws will be changed. If you encounter any legal problems, talk to an attorney. If you would like any more information on any of the areas mentioned herein, contact our office.

For more information, contact:

Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc.
132 West 43rd Street
New York, N.Y. 10036
Telephone: (212) 944-9488

Información Legal para Refugiados "Gay" Cubanos

Esperamos que esta circular pueda darle alguna información básica sobre su posición legal según las leyes de inmigración de los Estados Unidos y sobre sus derechos como persona "gay" radicándose en los Estados Unidos. Esta circular es solamente una guía básica y no servirá como sustituto para consejo legal particular. Si tiene algún problema legal grave o cualquier inconveniencia con el Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (Immigration and Naturalization Service), por favor solicite la ayuda de un abogado.

Su Posición Legal bajo las Leyes de Inmigración y Naturalización de EE.UU.

Esta establecido bajo las leyes de inmigración de EE.UU. que extranjeros homosexuales no sean admitidos a los Estados Unidos. En varios casos presentados en tribunales de justicia esto se ha puesto en prueba, lo cual ha dado entrada a EE.UU. durante el pasado año a muchos homosexuales procedentes de cualquier país bajo un procedimiento especial llamado "parole" (dejar libre bajo palabra de honor). Todos los refugiados recién llegados de Cuba (homosexual y no-homosexual) han sido admitidos a EE.UU. bajo una posición legal "parole" provisional y aún si le identifican como homosexual en el Servicio de Inmigración, le dejarán permanecer en los Estados Unidos. Sin embargo, a diferencia de los otros refugiados cubanos, si ha sido identificado como "gay" (persona homosexual) no será elegible para recibir la residencia permanente o aplicar para la ciudadanía a menos que las leyes de inmigración de EE.UU. sean cambiadas. Mientras tanto se queda en esta posición legal de "parole." Si las leyes llegan a ser cambiadas, en ese entonces le dejarán pedir la residencia permanente. Una tarjeta de identificación será entregada por el Servicio de Inmigración para que pueda obtener empleo. Esta tarjeta no tendrá nada que dice que Ud. es homosexual.

Debido a su posición legal de "parole" tiene que presentarse al Servicio de Inmigración según un horario establecido. Le van a informar exactamente cuando y donde presentarse. Es esencial que se presente cuando el Servicio de Inmigración lo especifique puesto que de no hacerlo puede parar en ser deportado. De haber algún cambio en su dirección residencial deberá notificarlo al Servicio de Inmigración y dejarles saber la nueva dirección. Si se decide trasladarse para otro estado es necesario que hable con su funcionario de inmigración sobre eso antes de mudarse.

En cualquier momento y por cualquier razón le pueden llamar para tener una entrevista con un funcionario de inmigración. Recuerde que durante la entrevista normal de su posición legal de "parole" o durante cualquier otra entrevista o audiencia tiene el derecho de rehusar a contestar cualquier pregunta. Si el funcionario de inmigración le hace preguntas acerca de su homosexualidad, su manera de vivir personal, los bares u otros sitios que Ud. frecuenta, o sus actividades sexuales, rehuse a contestar mas preguntas (aunque las demás sean preguntas que no tienen nada que ver con la homosexualidad) hasta que haya consultado a un abogado. Si está inseguro acerca del propósito o el intento de cualquier pregunta, responda que quiere consultar con un abogado (de su propia preferencia) antes de contestar a más preguntas. En caso que el oficial persiste o le amenaza no tenga miedo. Solamente rehuse a seguir contestando preguntas hasta que haya solicitado los servicios de un abogado. Aún cuando ya declaró al Servicio de Inmigración que es homosexual, adopte la misma postura y rehuse a contestar a cualquier pregunta acerca de este tema hasta que haya consultado a un

abogado. No firme ningún formulario de consentimiento (consent form), ninguna renuncia (waiver), o cualquier otro formulario legal durante la entrevista sin que primero haya consultado con un abogado.

Además recuerde que tiene el derecho de rehusar a dejar a un funcionario de inmigración, o a un policía, o a cualquier otro oficial del gobierno escudriñar su hogar a no ser que tenga un apropiado mandato judicial de practicar un registro (search warrant). Si un oficial intenta forzar la entrada no resista físicamente. Trate de buscar a un testigo y diga enfrente del testigo y del oficial que el está tratando de entrar en contra de su voluntad.

Si es arrestado por cualquier razón, será considerado como una infracción de su posición legal de "parole" (bajo palabra de honor) y es probable que el Servicio de Inmigración le va a llamar inmediatamente para una entrevista especial o para una audiencia. En tal instancia el gobierno, en contra de la costumbre corriente, no le tiene que proveer un abogado o un intérprete a su disposición para la entrevista o la audiencia. No vaya a una entrevista especial o a una audiencia sin consultar a un abogado. Si no conoce un abogado o no tiene los recursos con que pagarlo, hay varias maneras de conseguir un abogado que le pueda ayudar. Para ubicar a un abogado, pregunte a su padrino (la persona encargada o responsable por Ud.; sponsor), póngase en contacto con el Lambda Legal Defense, llame a la oficina de ayuda legal (Legal Aid Society) local, llame a la red de intercambio de información "gay" (gay switchboard) local, M.C.C. (Iglesia de la Comunidad Metropolitana; Metropolitan Community Church), Dignity (la organización de homosexuales católicos) o pida ayuda a las organizaciones homosexuales en su área.

Si recibe un aviso que habrá una audiencia para Ud. sea deportado, eso no quiere decir que le van a deportar inmediatamente. Existen varios modos legales para retrasar o detener el proceso de deportación y por consiguiente es probable que jamás sea deportado. Además, los Estados Unidos tiene la política de no deportar a nadie a un país comunista, entonces no es muy claro si el gobierno jamás pensaría en deportarle a Cuba. Lo más importante que hay que hacer tan pronto como reciba un aviso que habrá una audiencia para ser deportado es inmediatamente solicitar los servicios de un abogado.

Siempre lleve identificación consigo. Estos documentos deben indicar su nombre y dirección y su posición legal de extranjero con permiso de quedarse en este país. En los Estados Unidos hoy en día hay muchos extranjeros que se han quedado más del tiempo que se les dió la visa y así están considerados como extranjeros sin documentos e ilegales por el gobierno, puesto que no tienen el permiso legal para permanecer en este país. Si un oficial de inmigración o un policía le para y le interroga, enseñe su identificación (por ejemplo, la dicha tarjeta del Servicio de Inmigración) para asegurarle que Ud. no es uno de los muchos extranjeros ilegales a quienes están buscando. Ni resístase ni huya de los oficiales de inmigración o de la policía que le pidan ver sus papeles.

Ahora vamos a tratar de algunas de las leyes que llevan el castigo de arresto o de otros problemas para gente "gay." Recuerde que las leyes varían de estado a estado y por eso, familiarícese con las leyes locales. Está en este país con la posición legal de "parole" y recuerde que es muy importante que no llegue a ser arrestado.

Si le arrestan tiene los siguientes importantes derechos: Tiene el derecho de permanecer callado y de rehusar a contestar a cualquier pregunta. El hecho de permanecer callado no se puede usar en contra de Ud. en los tribunales. Cualquier cosa que diga puede y probablemente será usada en contra de Ud. Por lo tanto lo mejor es no decir nada. Tiene el derecho de que un abogado está

presente en el interrogatorio y si no tiene los recursos para costear a un abogado puede exigir que le provean uno gratis. Si Ud. dice que quiere permanecer callado ellos tienen que terminar el interrogatorio. Si le arrestan puede ser que la policía trate de interrogarle y ejercer influencia para que confiese o se declare culpable de algún crimen. Ni confiese, ni se declare culpable de nada aunque crea que cometió un delito por el cual ha sido arrestado. Sin hacer caso de lo que haga o diga la policía, si Ud. insiste en su derecho de que un abogado esté presente nada serio le va a pasar. Nuestros derechos en este tipo de situación son sumamente importantes para nosotros y los tribunales protegerán estos derechos y su derecho a ellos.

Actos que Pueden Llevar al Arresto

Sodomía Consentida ("Consensual Sodomy" - el acto de tener sexo o oral o anal voluntariamente entre personas mayores de edad) es ilícito en la mayoría de los estados. Sin embargo, es permitida en los siguientes estados: Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia y Wyoming. Recuerde que aunque donde la sodomía consentida (consensual sodomy) es legal, la solicitud (preguntar a alguien para cometer un acto sexual o legal o ilegal) todavía es un crimen.

En casi todos los estados es completamente ilícito para una persona bajo la edad de consentimiento (persona menor de edad) tener sexo con nadie. Generalmente una persona mayor de edad que tiene sexo con una persona menor de la edad de consentimiento (la edad de consentimiento es o 17 o 18 y varía de estado a estado) ha cometido un crimen grave aunque arrestos por ese crimen no son frecuentes.

La mayoría de los arrestos por los crímenes de cometer sodomía, solicitud y tener sexo con una persona menor de la edad de consentimiento ocurren en sitios públicos o semipúblicos tales como parques, servicios públicos, estaciones de servicio especialmente para camiones, muelles, estaciones de trenes o terminales de guaguas. A veces estos arrestos son llevado a cabo por policías vestidos para parecer o "gay" o lesbiana. Ellos invitan o solicitan a la persona y luego la arrestan. Cuando tenga la menor sospecha o el menor presentimiento que alguien es un policía, completamente evite cualquier contacto con él. Mucha gente "gay" en EE.UU. corre estos riesgos pero para Ud. son más grandes ya que un arresto puede llevar a una audiencia para deportarle.

Otras Actividades que Corren Gran Riesgo de Arresto

Drogas Ilícitas- La posesión, el uso o la venta de marihuana todavía es completamente ilegal en la mayoría de los estados. Las anfetaminas (amphetamines - ups), barbitúricos (barbituates - downs), quaaludes, cocaína y heroína también son ilegales y la posesión de cualquiera de ellas es un crimen grave en muchos de los estados. En este caso también, la policía vestida de civil tratará de engañarle y efectuar venta o compra de drogas para hacer los arrestos.

Prostitución es ilegal por ambos hombres y mujeres en casi todos los estados. Además de arrestos por la policía encubierta, en muchas grandes ciudades la policía hace arrestos periódicos en masa de prostitutas. Aunque a la mayoría de las prostitutas les pone en libertad bajo fianza o con multa mínima, para Ud. las consecuencias potenciales son muchos mas serias.

Manejar sin licencia de conducir, pelear en la calle, vestirse de "drag" o mujer vestirse de hombre o hombre vestirse de mujer son actos los cuales en ciertos lugares pueden llevar al arresto. Consulte con su padrino (sponsor) acerca de las leyes particulares a su comunidad sobre estos actos.

Hemos incluido esta información para prevenir tantos arrestos como sean posible. Si le arrestan no deje que el pánico le coja. Un abogado le podrá ayudar y hay muchas maneras legales de retar un arresto y luego prevenir una prueba de culpabilidad.

Otras Consecuencias de Ser "Gay" en los Estados Unidos

Ser "gay" por sí mismo no es ilegal pero si alguien cree o sabe que es "gay" generalmente puede influenciar en perjuicio de Ud. sin infringir ninguna ley. Poca prueba es necesaria para probar que se es "gay" y la culpabilidad por asociación es frecuentemente suficiente. Por este hecho, considere los efectos de sus actividades para su propio bienestar y el de su padrino (sponsor). Discuta las leyes de su comunidad y los perjuicios con su padrino. Averigüe si le importa a su propio padrino (sponsor) que Ud. esconda su estado de ser "gay."

Para la Madre Lesbiana

Las autoridades locales del bienestar social están en el derecho de probar su conducta moral para determinar su capacidad como madre. Debido a que algunos funcionarios piensan que la mujer lesbiana no está moralmente capacitada para ser madre, a veces se llevan a cabo procesos legales para tratar de quitarle a los hijos. Si, en cualquier oportunidad, surge la pregunta sobre su homosexualidad o sus actividades sexuales en alguna de las agencias del bienestar social, comuníquese inmediatamente con un abogado. Si un proceso legal contra Ud. se ha iniciado, la oportunidad de ganar el caso existe, pero necesitará la ayuda de un abogado. Naturalmente, muchas mujeres mantienen a sus hijos sin tener que llevar jamás este problema a los tribunales de justicia.

Solicitud de Trabajo

Si un patrón o un patrón potencial le pregunta si Ud. es "gay" y Ud. contesta que "sí," generalmente se le puede despedir o negarle empleo sin ser en contra de la ley. Si rehusa a contestar la pregunta, el patrón puede pensar que es Ud. "gay" o que no desea cooperar y así despedirle o negarse a emplearlo por esa razón. En muy pocos estados, la ley protege el derecho de ser empleado abiertamente como una persona "gay." La mayoría de los homosexuales en EE.UU. pueden darle consejo sobre esta difícil cuestión o hable con su padrino (sponsor).

Aunque estas advertencias parezcan complicadas, nosotros ya hemos aprendido a vivir en el sistema. Esperamos que mientras Ud. permanezca aquí, muchas de estas leyes cambiarán. Si encuentra cualquier problema legal, consulte con un abogado. Si desea información adicional sobre cualesquier de los tópicos antes aquí mencionados, póngase en contacto con nuestra oficina.

Para más información, comuníquese con:

Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc.
132 West 43rd Street
New York, N.Y. 10036
Teléfono: (212) 944-9488

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15,000 'Hard-Core' Remain

85 Percent of Refugees Resettled, Officials Say

MIAMI (AP) — Federal officials say they have resettled 85 percent of the Cuban refugees who fled their homeland in an illegal boatlift, but that still leaves about 15,000 "hard-core" refugees in government camps with little chance of finding American sponsors.

The government in just four months has managed to find homes for most of the 122,000 Cubans who fled their homeland in an illegal boatlift this year, according to the State Department.

But one resettlement worker, who asked not to be identified, said, "Now we're down to the

hard core — the criminals, the homosexuals, the mentally ill, the diseased that nobody wants."

In addition to those living in government camps, officials say thousands of others are living in condemned hotels and other inadequate shelters, many in squalor and fear.

In Fort McCoy, Wis., for example, there have been growing reports of organized refugee gangs who terrorize young refugees by stealing their belongings or subjecting them to homosexual assaults.

And such reports "only make it harder to find sponsors," the official said.

Officials also are trying to speed up resettlement of some 800 minors. After evidence surfaced that some teen-agers were being bullied, they were put in separate facilities.

Resettlement of the minors was delayed until state-local governments worked out a compromise on who's responsible. It was decided the states will take legal responsibility, the federal government will take financial responsibility.

In Miami, where about 60,000 have settled, the "tent city" home of about 740 refugees is a source of local outrage. Sanitation inspectors, finding fecal matter in food and other repulsive conditions, ordered it cleaned or closed.

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The Miami Herald ran a full-page editorial, illustrated with grinning photographs, calling

Cuban Nationals Jailed by FBI

MIAMI (AP) — Three Cuban nationals were arrested on passport violation charges Friday and were jailed in lieu of \$500,000 bond each as part of an FBI investigation "targeted at Cuban intelligence," officials said.

The men, carrying Nicaraguan passports, were preparing to leave Fort Lauderdale International Airport aboard a Nicaraguan-registered Lear 35A jet when they were apprehended, said Arthur F. Nehrass, special agent in charge of the Miami FBI office.

"The arrests are an outgrowth of our intelligence investigation targeted to Cuban intelligence," Nehrass said.

He declined to say if authorities thought the men were agents of Cuban President Fidel Castro's communist government.

Nehrass said the Cubans

arrived in Fort Lauderdale on Monday, but refused to say whether they had been under surveillance while in the United States. He also would not comment on where the three men planned to fly Friday.

He said the U.S. Treasury Department was holding the jet while authorities tried to determine if it is the property of the Cuban government.

The FBI identified the Cubans arrested as Simon Delfin Espinosa Alvarez, 36; Luis Leonardo Herrera Altuna, 34; and Jorge Hermenegildo Toledo Infanta, 35. All were charged with providing false information to obtain visas in Managua, Nicaragua, to enter the United States.

A fourth Cuban national was at the airport when Immigration and Naturalization agents made the arrests, but he was not held, Nehrass said.

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A fourth Cuban national was at the airport when Immigration and Naturalization agents made the arrests, but he was not held, Nehrbass said.

"There were only three men on the plane when it landed," Nehrbass said. "There was not probable cause to hold the fourth man. He was just in the area when agents made the arrests."

Nehrbass said the three men arrested obtained Nicaraguan passports and subsequently obtained visas in Managua to enter the United States. At the same time, the men held Cuban passports and had applied for visas to enter the U.S. as members of an Air Cubana flight crew, the agent said.

The Cubans were scheduled to appear before a U.S. Magistrate on Sept. 8. If convicted they could face a maximum 5-year prison sentence and \$2,000 fine.

Slurp

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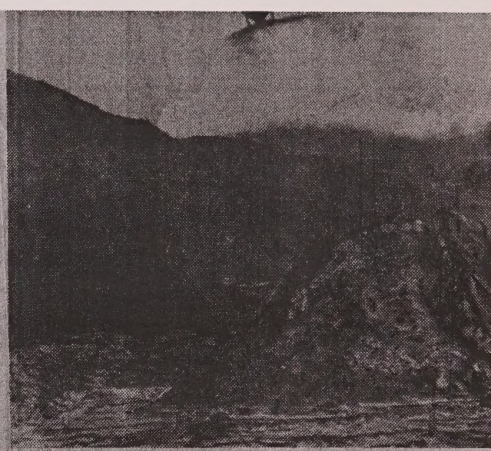
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Discrimination Probe

UC Berkeley Faces Fund Los

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The University of California at Berkeley was threatened today with the cutoff of \$25 million in annual government business unless it provides records in a job bias probe to the Labor Department.

The threat, made by Labor Secretary Ray Marshall who said it would go into effect in 30 days, was countered by a UC pledge to go to court.

Berkeley campus Chancellor I. Michael Heyman called the threat "an extreme response to a disagreement over procedural aspects of a federal investigation."

Heyman accused Marshall of "overruling the carefully thought-out decisions of a U.S. administrative law judge" who a year ago "con-

the secretary of defense exempts it."

However, Ms. Kober later she was "not certain the lab is included in the or. She said a decision will be made in the future by department attorneys."

Mary Spletter, a union spokeswoman, said Lawrence Livermore will not lose federal contracts because the order. She said only Berkeley campus is affected.

Lawrence Livermore Laboratory develops nuclear weapons for government. It is operated by UC Berkeley, which employs some 15,000 persons including 6,000 faculty members.

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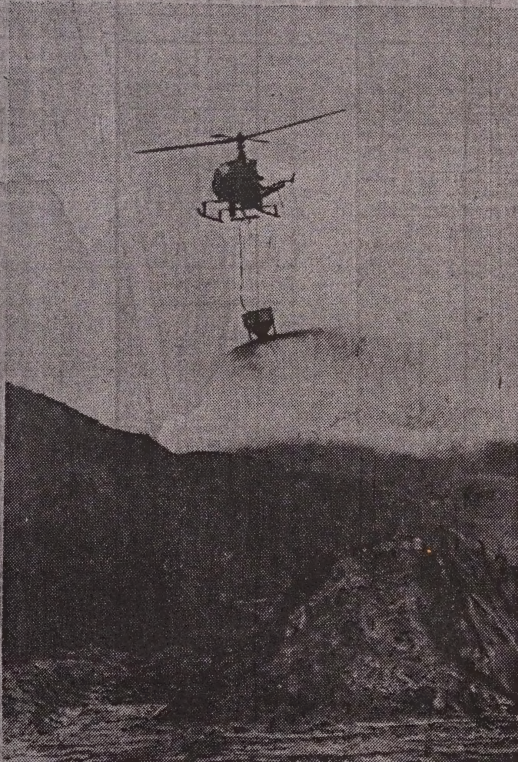
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Resignation Possible

Sillas Cleared In Bribe Charge

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Carter has concluded that a bribery allegation against U.S. Attorney Herman Sillas of Sacramento "has not been proven," the White House said Friday.

A statement indicated Carter therefore won't fire the embattled federal prosecutor, whose case has become a cause celebre in the Hispanic community. But the statement also made clear the White House would welcome Sillas' resignation.

Sillas has said he might resign after being exonerated, but he said Friday that he "wanted a couple of days to consider my options."

"I am very grateful to the president now that I've been cleared and to his staff who have provided me with some sort of due process," Sillas said.

An official statement said White House counsel Lloyd N. Cutler had reviewed the Justice Department's findings in its Sillas investigation and had given Sillas an opportunity to present his side of the case.

Cutler's report to the president, the statement said, "concludes that the allegation against Mr. Sillas has not been proven. An unproven allegation, of course, should not damage Mr. Sillas' reputation."

But the White House added that the probe may have destroyed "the necessary relationship of mutual trust and confidence between the Department of Justice and Mr. Sillas ... to the point where

the announcement —

Sillas, 46, was accused by a California prison inmate of accepting a \$7,500 bribe while Sillas was running for state secretary of state in 1974.

The accuser, Richard Timothy Workman, who is serving a sentence following his conviction on a bad check scheme, told investigators that after Sillas had lost the election and had been appointed state director of motor vehicles Workman approached him, reminded him of the gift and asked for a car dealer's license.

Sillas has insisted the money from Workman was nothing more than a campaign contribution, and Workman never received the sought-after license.

But investigators gave Workman two lie detector tests, which he passed, and then administered one to Sillas, which the prosecutor reportedly failed. Sillas claimed to have taken another test privately and passed and he refused to take a second Justice Department test.

Motorists' Encounter Shocking

LOS GATOS (AP) — His sportscar snarled in traffic, a driver thought he had been cut off by a truck. Miffed, he

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The threat, made by Labor Secretary Ray Marshall who said it would go into effect in 30 days, was countered by a UC pledge to go to court.

Berkeley campus Chancellor I. Michael Heyman called the threat "an extreme response to a disagreement over procedural aspects of a federal investigation."

Heyman accused Marshall of "overruling the carefully thought-out decisions of a U.S. administrative law judge" who a year ago "concluded that a probe is essential" in

the secretary of defense exempts it."

However, Ms. Kober said later she was "not certain" if the lab is included in the order. She said a decision will be made in the future by department attorneys.

Mary Spletter, a university spokeswoman, said Lawrence Livermore will not lose any federal contracts because of the order. She said only the Berkeley campus is affected.

Lawrence Livermore Laboratory develops secret nuclear weapons for the government. It is operated by UC Berkeley, which employs some 15,000 persons including 6,000 faculty members.

The action threatened by the department "is based on the university's failure to

said Friday.

A statement indicated Carter therefore won't fire the embattled federal prosecutor, whose case has become a cause celebre in the Hispanic community. But the statement also made clear the White House would welcome Sillas' resignation.

Sillas has said he might resign after being exonerated, but he said Friday that he "wanted a couple of days to consider my options."

"I am very grateful to the president now that I've been cleared and to his staff who have provided me with some sort of due process," Sillas said.

An official statement said White House counsel Lloyd N. Cutler had reviewed the Justice Department's findings in its Sillas investigation and had given Sillas an opportunity to present his side of the case.

Cutler's report to the president, the statement said, "concludes that the allegation against Mr. Sillas has not been proven. An unproven allegation, of course, should not damage Mr. Sillas' reputation."

But the White House added that the probe may have destroyed "the necessary relationship of mutual trust and confidence between the Department of Justice and Mr. Sillas... to the point where either or both may wish to discontinue the relationship."

The White House then tossed the matter back to Sillas by saying Cutler has "called upon Mr. Sillas to examine his position in the light of these conclusions before Mr. Cutler advises the president further concerning the matter."

Sillas said the comments on his relationship with the Justice Department are "a fair statement in light of the events."

The White House counsel's office, which prepared the Sillas report that Carter approved, refused to comment on

SLOOP LEAVES

DETROIT (AP) — The Dal, a 29-foot sailing sloop which made

Timothy Workman, who is serving a sentence following his conviction on a bad check scheme, told investigators that after Sillas had lost the election and had been appointed state director of motor vehicles Workman approached him, reminded him of the gift and asked for a car dealer's license.

Sillas has insisted the money from Workman was nothing more than a campaign contribution, and Workman never received the sought-after license.

But investigators gave Workman two lie detector tests, which he passed, and then administered one to Sillas, which the prosecutor reportedly failed. Sillas claimed to have taken another test privately and passed and he refused to take a second Justice Department test.

Motorists' Encounter Shocking

LOS GATOS (AP) — His sportscar snarled in traffic, a driver thought he had been cut off by a truck. Miffed, he motioned to the truck driver to step out. What happened next was shocking.

When he obliged, said trucker David Morisch, the unidentified sportscar driver whipped out an exotic-looking weapon and fired two darts. One dart struck Morisch in the side and gave him, in the astonished victim's words, "a pretty good electrical jolt."

The device looked like a hand gun with electrical wires attached to the barrel.

Morisch, a 26-year-old carpenter who was headed home on Highway 9 Wednesday, pulled the dart from his skin and gave chase with a rather unsophisticated weapon — a hammer.

The sport-shooter escaped. Sheriff's

SlurPen

